

VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

The Meeting of the Village Improvement Association was called to order by Alan Olenick at 6:45 p.m. on May 19, 2015 in the Connie Sacco Room of the Main Library.

Present were Gert Beckwith, Michelle Bernardi, Ted Brown, Patricia Donnelly, Joe Fortino, John Galvin, Pamela Gardner, Charles Gunning, William Heffernan, Curtis Hodgkins, William Lang, John Lewis, Mary Malenda, Alan Olenick, Susan Walker and Director Kathy Giotsas. Also present were staff members Colleen Bailee, Samantha Lee, Kathy Maher, and Bernadette Niedermeier. Guests were Regina Milano, West Haven High School and Regina James, parent representation, both guests are on WHHS School Governance Council.

Minutes of April 21, 2105 meeting were approved as printed by motion of M. Malenda, seconded by P. Donnelly and carried.

Treasurer's report: C. Gunning: We are presently \$26,000 over budget. All money for book allocation should be spent as soon as possible so invoices can be processed before end of fiscal year. Report was accepted by motion of C. Hodgkins, seconded by W. Lang, and carried.

Director/Staff Reports: K. Giotsas: Two librarians are leaving: Elizabeth Ryan and Elaine Braithwaite. All staff has been working to fill in where/when necessary. Library received an award from WHEAT for the Food for Fines program. Signage is being put on Bookmobile now and it will be available on May 21st. Suggestion to have the bookmobile in Memorial Day parade. Because of construction around Piantino, the U.I. has informed us there may be some blackout dates in June which should little impact on our patrons. Graham Room (children's department) hours will be the same as Main hours. Summer hours: the two branches will close Friday and Saturday during the months of June, July and September. The hour's situation will be looked at in September. Staff/managers and clerical personnel will rotate through libraries starting in the fall.

Staff reports:

C. Bailee: only one more computer has to be installed. More computers have resulted in increase in patron traffic and decrease in wait time. She is doing ordering and weeding at Piantino. Rick from LION has upgraded the branches and computers are working faster.

K Maher: Insurance companies have requested that we have a Violence, Sexual Abuse & Molestation, Harassment and Discrimination Policy and Procedures. A sample policy for review is in the packet. Three requests were received for Connie Sacco scholarship; two were accepted and will be given out at WHHS awards ceremony.

B. Niedermeier: Summer reading program is underway. She has visited some elementary schools and was well received. Theme for summer read is "Every Hero Has a Story". Literacy night with Mackrille School was last week.

S. Lee: went to high school library on a "library card" drive. She is contacting volunteers with goal of having high school students read to elementary students.

ONE BOOK, ONE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Regina Milano explained the purpose of the committee and the book "*This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women*" that all WHHS students will be encouraged to read (or read at least a portion of it). Pam Gardner, Principal of WHHS, is requesting from the VIA money for 1,800 copies of the book (approximately \$11,000). There will be banners displayed around the City on public buildings, book plates and publicity. Motion by J. Galvin, seconded by W. Heffernan, and carried to support the One Book-One School Community up to \$15,000 to purchase the 1,800 books. Perhaps a book mark showing library hours, a brochure with library events and a Friends application could be included with the books.

Friends of Library: P. Donnelly: Staff/volunteers appreciation lunch was held on April 22nd. Friends will have a table for Murder Mystery Dinner and recruit membership in the organization. Friends will support Animal Embassy program at library Saturday May 23rd at 2. Book Sale is July 17 and 18.

Committees:

Building and Grounds: Ora Mason bill of Cordonne and Tonucci was reviewed. Director is negotiating/questioning some items.

Old Business:

Staff vacancies: Aisha Banks will begin her manager position at LP on May 26th. Posting is out for the reference librarian position; interviews will be in June; Personnel Committee will be invited to attend the second interview. OM manager position will have interviews in July and manager should be in place the end of August. A temporary librarian, Andrea Zimmerman, has been hired from May 18th until the end of August.

2015-16 Budget: We received a \$50,000 increase \$1,680,000. We requested \$1,758,000. Revisions to 2015-16 budget using figure of \$1,680,000 will be discussed at June meeting.

Library fundraiser May 29th: A. Olenick: Tickets will be sold up to Wednesday May 27th. Friends of WH Library will have a table encouraging membership. There will be a 50/50 raffle.

New Business:

Elaine Braithwaite, branch manager at Ora Mason, resigned to take a new position. Her last day was May 15th.

Preventing Violence---the policy as recommended by insurance company was accepted by motion of M. Bernardi, seconded by T. Brown and carried with the stipulation that wordage under Reporting Procedure: "Anonymous reporting can be made to the West Haven Public Library Board of Directors (Chair of the Audit Committee)" be removed.

Ad in Our Lady of Victory School playbook: Motion by M. Bernardi, seconded by G. Beckwith, and carried to take a \$50 ad in the playbook.

Your Partner for Success: Community Banner: Motion by M. Bernardi, seconded by W. Heffernan and carried with one abstention. To negotiate and design three banners – one for each library.

Motion to adjourn was made at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes taken by Gert Beckwith

NEXT MEETING WILL BE JUNE 16, 2015 AT 6:30 P.M.